



Auditor of Public Accounts
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Auditor Edelen helps usher accountability legislation into law

Measure lets Executive Branch Ethics Commission share information with the auditor's office

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 11, 2012) – Gov. Steve Beshear today signed significant government accountability legislation that will allow the Executive Branch Ethics Commission to share information and coordinate investigations with the Auditor of Public Accounts.

Auditor Adam Edelen worked with Ethics Commission Executive Director John Steffen and state Rep. Mike Cherry, D-Princeton, to usher the passage of House Bill 402 during the 2012 General Assembly.

“In an era of shrinking resources, it is important that our agencies be able to work together to achieve a shared mission of accountability and transparency in government,” Edelen said.

Edelen said he was pleased to have worked in a bipartisan manner in both the House and Senate to usher the passage of his first significant piece of legislation as state auditor.

“It’s my goal to build relationships and work with the legislature on important ethics and accountability measures throughout the next four years,” Edelen said.

Prior to House Bill 402, the commission was not permitted to acknowledge to the auditor’s office that the two agencies might be conducting similar investigations.

“I am very pleased to see this improvement made to the Executive Branch Code of Ethics and look forward to being able to work even more closely with the Auditor of Public Accounts in the near future,” Steffen said. “I am also glad to finally have the Executive Branch Ethics Commission added to the list of agencies to whom public servants may turn for whistleblower protection.”

Cherry, who is chairman of the House State Government Committee and is retiring after serving in the legislature for more than a decade, said the bill has long been needed in Kentucky.

“It’s obvious that the two agencies need to be able to share information to achieve their common goal of catching those who waste and abuse taxpayer dollars,” Cherry said. “I’m happy to have been able to help the commission and auditor’s office make this legislation happen.”

The governor on Wednesday also signed House Bill 348, a reorganization measure that will give the office flexibility in the face of diminished resources and ever-evolving statutory mandates.

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The Auditor of Public Accounts ensures that public resources are protected, accurately valued, properly accounted for, and effectively employed to raise the quality of life of Kentuckians.

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